

# Quiripi language

**Quiripi** (pronounced /ˈkwɪrɪpiː/,<sup>[2]</sup> also known as **Quiripi-Unquachog**, **Quiripi-Naugatuck**, and **Wampano**) was an Algonquian language formerly spoken by the indigenous people of southwestern Connecticut and central Long Island,<sup>[3][4]</sup> including the Quinnipiac, Unquachog, Mattabesic, Podunk, Tunxis, and Paugussett (subgroups Naugatuck, Potatuck, Weantinock). It has been effectively extinct since the end of the 19th century,<sup>[5]</sup> although Frank T. Siebert, Jr., was able to record a few Unquachog words from an elderly woman in 1932.<sup>[6]</sup>

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## Affiliation and dialects

Quiripi is considered to have been a member of the Eastern Algonquian branch of the Algonquian language family.<sup>[7][8]</sup> It shared a number of linguistic features with the other Algonquian languages of southern New England, such as Massachusett and Mohegan-Pequot, including the shifting of Proto-Eastern Algonquian \*aː and \*eː to ãː and /aː/, respectively, and the palatalization of earlier \*k before certain front vowels.<sup>[9][10]</sup> There appear to have been two major dialects of Quiripi: an "insular" dialect spoken on Long Island by the Unquachog and a "mainland" dialect spoken by the other groups in Connecticut, principally the Quinnipiac.<sup>[11][12]</sup>

## Attestation

Quiripi is very poorly attested,<sup>[13]</sup> though some sources do exist. One of the earliest Quiripi vocabularies was a 67-page bilingual catechism compiled in 1658 by Abraham Pierson, the elder, during his ministry at Branford, Connecticut,<sup>[3][14]</sup> which remains the chief source of modern conclusions about Quiripi.<sup>[4]</sup> Unfortunately, the catechism was "poorly translated" by Pierson,<sup>[4]</sup> containing an "unidiomatic, non-Algonquian sentence structure."<sup>[15]</sup> It also displays signs of dialect mixture.<sup>[16]</sup> Other sources of information on the language include a vocabulary collected by Rev. Ezra Stiles in the late 1700s<sup>[17]</sup> and a 202-word

Quiripi	
Wampano	
Native to	United States
Extinct	ca. 1900
Language family	<div>Algic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Algonquian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eastern Algonquian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Quiripi</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	qyp
Glottolog	wamp1250 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/wamp1250</span> ) <sup>[1]</sup>



The location of the Paugussett, Tunxis, Podunk, Quinnipiac, Mattabesic, Unquachog and their neighbors, c. 1600

Unquachog vocabulary recorded by Thomas Jefferson in 1791,<sup>[6]</sup> though the Jefferson vocabulary also shows clear signs of dialect mixture and "external influences."<sup>[18]</sup> Additionally, three early hymns written circa 1740 at the Moravian Shekomeko mission near Kent, Connecticut, have been translated by Carl Masthay.<sup>[19]</sup>

## Phonology

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Linguist Blair Rudes attempted to reconstitute the phonology of Quiripi, using the extant documentation, comparison with related Algonquian languages, as "reconstructing forward" from Proto-Algonquian.<sup>[20]</sup> In Rudes' analysis, Quiripi contained the following consonant phonemes:<sup>[21]</sup>

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	p	t	tʃ	k	
<u>Fricative</u>		s	(ʃ)*		h
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n			
<u>Rhotic</u>		r			
<u>Semivowel</u>	w		j		

ʌ / ʃ / was a distinct phoneme only in the mainland dialect; in Unquachog it had merged with /s/

Quiripi's vowel system as reconstituted by Rudes was similar to that of the other Southern New England Algonquian languages. It consisted of two short vowels /a/ and /ə/, and four long vowels /aː/, /iː/, /uː/, and /ĩ/.<sup>[21]</sup>

## Orthography

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- a - [ʌ]
- â - [aː]
- ch - [tʃ]
- h - [h]
- i - [iː]
- k - [k]
- m - [m]
- n - [n]
- o - [uː]
- ô - [ĩ]
- p - [p]
- r - [r]
- s - [s]
- sh - [ʃ]
- t - [t]
- u - [ə]
- w - [w]
- y - [j]<sup>[22]</sup>

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2. Salwen (1978:175)
3. Rudes (1997:1)
4. Goddard (1978:72)
5. Goddard (1978:71)
6. Rudes (1997:5)
7. Goddard (1978)
8. Mithun (1999:327)
9. Goddard (1978:75)
10. Rudes (1997:27)
11. Rudes (1997:6-7)
12. Costa (2007:116, 119)
13. Costa (2007:116, 118)
14. Mithun (1999:331)
15. Costa (2007:118)
16. Costa (2007:116)
17. Rudes (1997:4)
18. Costa (2007:120)
19. Rudes (1997:2)
20. Rudes (1997:6)
21. Rudes (2007:18)
22. Quiripi language, alphabet, and pronunciation (<https://www.omniglot.com/writing/quiripi.htm>), Omniglot.

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## External links

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- [OLAC resources in and about the Quiripi language \(http://www.language-archives.org/language/qyp\)](http://www.language-archives.org/language/qyp)
  - [Quiripi language \(http://www.native-languages.org/quiripi.htm\)](http://www.native-languages.org/quiripi.htm)
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